

Remarks

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 15, 17, 18 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. In this regard, the Examiner has objected to certain language in some of the claims, for example, Claim 6, line 1-2 wherein the phrase "used for" is utilized. This phrase has been amended. In line 7, the word "suitable" has been deleted. The phrase "arranged at a farthest portion from the substrate sheet" has been deemed to be unduly vague and indefinite with respect to location. This phrase is recited in the claims at page 30 and the applicant should be able to use the words of the claims as defined. Nevertheless, the phrase has been deleted from the claims. In line 7, *Bec's* smoothness has been corrected.

In Claim 6, the phrase "and arranged at a closest portion from the substrate sheet" has also been removed to clarify the claims.

There is an objection to Claim 15, line 6 wherein the phrase "and the transferring adhesive layer" is questioned as being part of the Markush grouping or not. The phrase is part of the group and is clear as written. The phrase "is formed as the plane, shape and size to fit an individual image forming area" has been objected to as being vague and indefinite. The phrase has been amended in the claim.

In Claim 18, lines 1-6, the term "comprises" has been modified to be –comprising—. The phrase "formed by the different material from the material of the uppermost layer" has been amended. It is submitted that the Claims now meet the requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112, 2d paragraph. .

Claims 6, 15 and 17 have been rejected by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112. In Claim 6, the phrase "formed of a resin other than ionomer"

appears to be new matter, as viewed by the Examiner. This phrase has been deleted and the claim amended to include specific resins. Support for this language is found on page 41 and throughout the specification.

Claims 6, 15, 17, 18 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over the EP-077 reference for the reasons of record. The claims have been amended to overcome this rejection. The present claims are not taught or suggested by the EP-077 disclosure. The transferring adhesive layer of the present application comprises three layers of an uppermost layer, an intermediate layer, and the basement layer, arranged in this order on the substrate sheet, the uppermost layer should be adhesively attached to a receptor layer of an intermediate transfer recording medium, the basement layer should be adhesively attached to a natural paper as a transfer-receiving material and further, the intermediate layer should be adhesively attached to both the uppermost layer and the basement layer. For each of the layers, a resin may be used. The resin may be selected from the group consisting of acrylic resins, vinyl group resins, polyester resins, polyamid resins, epoxy resins and polyurethane resins, which are specifically used as material for the uppermost layer. Polyvinyl pyrrolidone is utilized for the basement layer. In the comparative examples, the preservation properties of a ribbon and anti-blocking properties can be realized over those adhesive layer transfer sheets.

In the uppermost layer claimed in the present invention, the use of a resin prevents blurring of an image does not occur under severe storage conditions when temperatures may be over 60°C. Further, in the claimed invention, the basement layer comprises a transfer-receiving material, which is natural paper, which has a low melting point and is permeable. The natural paper, having a smoothness of 10-1500 seconds to Bec's Smoothness should not be used for the uppermost layer because of the danger of having blurring occur in the transferred image under severe

conditions. The use of the claimed intermediate layer allows for the two layers comprising the uppermost layer and the basement layer to be sufficient to provide the desired results under normal conditions and under more severe conditions. In other transfer sheets, under severe conditions, blurring would occur. When the intermediate layer is arranged between the uppermost layer and the basement layer as claimed in the present invention, blurring of the transferred image is avoided.

The claims have been amended to define the invention more clearly.

It is respectfully submitted that the European reference does not teach or suggest the presently claimed invention. Therefore, the Applicants submit that the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and 103. An early Notice of Allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

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